

# MACARTHUR NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

3 MARCH - 22 APRIL 2025

Entry guide for High Schools





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## **Introduction**

The Macarthur Councils are once again hosting the highly anticipated Macarthur Nature Photography Competition (MNPC) and encouraging our high schools to engage their students in this competition.

We invite your students to enter their most striking, captivating and enticing images of local native flora, wildlife and natural scenery taken from within the Macarthur area, showcasing their artistic vision and impression of the natural environment to the wider community.

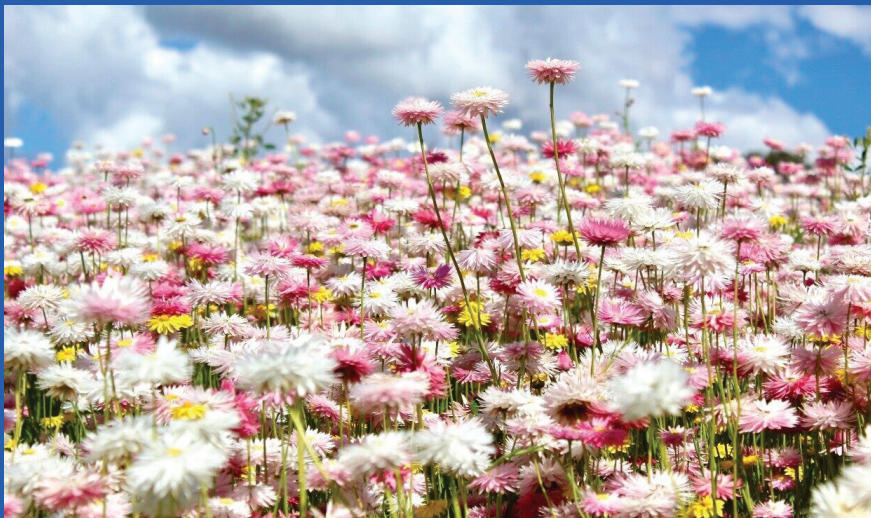
Moments captured have the ability to remind us that photography has the power to transport us to unseen worlds. At a time when we are presented with an abundance of images through social media and television, the challenge is to share an image that will cut through the clutter and reveal something in our world that is new or wondrous to us.

We have a great prize pool on offer and high school students have the unique opportunity to win the 2025 MNPC School Prize Package for their school.

## Entry is easy

When Students fill out their entry form, all they need to do is specify their age and parent's contact details to go in the running to win a prize for themselves in one of the **three** main categories.

Students should also enter their School's information to ensure their entry is included in the School's tally.



2023 entrant's image captured by Jedd S

**Cameras come in all shapes and forms these days. Encourage students to snap a shot on their smart phone, iPad or camera!**

## Curriculum links

The MNPC is a great way to engage high school students in a range of syllabus content. The following highlights some of the many learning outcomes that can be achieved through participation in this competition.

## Creative Arts

Photography is the main medium of communication for the MNPC.

Visual Arts	Life Skills Outcomes and Content	Photographic and Digital Media
Conceptual Framework (4.2)	Conceptual Framework (LS.4)	Conceptual Framework (5.2)
Frames (4.3) Frames (LS.6)	Frames (5.3)	
Representation (4.4)	Conceptual Strength and Meaning (LS.8)	Representation (5.4)
Conceptual strength and meaning (4.5)	Conceptual strength and meaning (5.5)	
Conceptual Framework (4.8)	Resolution (LS.9)	Conceptual Framework (5.8)
Frames (4.9)		Frames (5.9)

## Science

The natural environment is the central theme of the MNPC, encouraging students to explore and study nature within the school grounds or a local reserve.

Stage 4	Stage 5
SC4-1VA	SC5-1VA
SC4-2VA	SC5-2VA
SC4-6WS	SC5-6WS
SC4-14LW	SC5-14LW



## Geography

MNPC encourages students to capture photos that encompass a range of themes and to describe these photos as part of their submission.

Stage 4	Stage 5
GE4-1	GE5-1
GE4-2	GE5-2
GE4-3	GE5-3
GE4-5	

## Competition themes

The three categories for the competition are:

- 1. Caring for Country:** People helping, enjoying or connecting with the natural environment including our iconic waterways.
- 2. Threatened Species:** Our rare, endangered and vulnerable native plants, animals and pollinators.
- 3. Australian Native Plants, Animals and Pollinators:** Lifecycles, Macro-Invertebrates, New Growth, Seasonal Changes.





**EXCITING  
NEWS**

Go in the running to win the overall school prize

## Individual prizes

### Primary school aged (5 to 12 years)

- \$100 Prepaid Gift Card and \$100 Narellan Town Centre voucher for first place in each theme
- \$75 Prepaid Gift Card for second place in each theme.

### High school aged (13 to 18 years)

- \$150 Prepaid Gift Card and \$100 Narellan Town Centre voucher for first place in each theme.
- \$100 Prepaid Gift Card for second place in each theme.

### Open section (18+ years)

- \$250 Prepaid Gift Card and \$100 Narellan Town Centre voucher for first place in each theme.
- \$150 Prepaid Gift Card for second place in each theme.

### Professional

- Professional camera donated by project sponsors.
- \$150 Prepaid Gift card for second place in each theme.

### People's choice

- \$500 Prepaid Gift Card

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### Don't forget!

The People's Choice Award is back again this year with an amazing prize for the most popular photo, voted onsite via QR code by the community at our Narellan Town Centre display.



## High School Prize Package

Every photograph that has been entered by a student with the name of their school and their age included on the entry form, will be counted in the tally for the school prize package. The school with the most number of entries will win the school prize package. The school prize package includes:

- a tray of 50 native plants suited to the local plant community type, and
- a visit from Council's Biodiversity Officer to present the plants to the school and a brief talk about the importance of the school's habitat to support local biodiversity.

## Announcement of winners

Finalists (excluding professional photographers) will be entered into the People's Choice Award competition and displayed at Narellen Town Centre for voting. Winners of each category will be announced at the competition award ceremony on 5 June 2025 with the winners images shared online via social media.



## ONLINE ENTRIES ARE FREE

Please encourage students to include their school details, for the school to go in the running to win the School Prize Package.

### How to enter

1. Carefully read all the competition rules.
2. Take some photos that relate to the competition categories within the Campbelltown, Camden or Wollondilly Local Government Areas.
3. To enter your photos, visit [campbelltown.nsw.gov.au/MNPC](http://campbelltown.nsw.gov.au/MNPC)

**Please note:** Online entries are limited to three photos per entrant.



## Competition Rules

1. For the purposes of this competition, the competition organisers are defined as nominated staff involved in the organisation and coordination of the competition from Campbelltown, Camden and Wollondilly Councils.
2. The subject matter of the photographs submitted must be from within the Macarthur region, defined as Campbelltown, Camden and Wollondilly Local Government Areas (LGAs) and must be obtained lawfully.
3. Images of fauna must not include flash photography and must meet ethical photography guidelines as specified on the council website, any images submitted with flash on fauna will not be judged and residents will be contacted about animal welfare/ethics.
4. Photographs may be black and white or colour.
5. Each entrant may enter a maximum of three photographs in the competition, any excess images submitted will not be considered for judging.
6. The content of a photograph must not be changed or manipulated in any way; that is, no cloning, montaging, or digital manipulation other than cropping, toning, digital spotting, burning, dodging. No Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated imagery is permitted. Additionally, no addition or removal of subject matter is accepted. Retouching is limited to the removal of normal scratches and dust spots. Colour adjustment should be minimal.
7. Each photograph can only be entered into one theme.
8. Photographers who have made more than \$500 in photography sales in the 2024/2025 financial year will not be eligible to enter the age categories. A shortlisted selection of entries in the Professional category will be on exhibition at the Narellan Town Centre; these entries are NOT eligible for the People's Choice Award.
9. A panel of judges representing photography, art and local biodiversity expertise, will select theme place winners, and will shortlist images for the People's Choice Award. The judge's decisions are final.
10. Respective Councillors, competition organisers, the judging panel and their immediate families are not eligible to enter the competition.
11. Entries must be submitted online.
12. Late entries will not be accepted.
13. Entrants in this competition give permission for their works to be reproduced by print and electronic media by the competition organisers for not-for-profit publications, advertising and promotional purposes. Entrants will be acknowledged if the image is reproduced.
14. All personal information gathered by the competition organisers will be used solely for the purposes of administering the Macarthur Nature Photography Competition.
15. Photos must be taken within the last 12 months.

**Campbelltown City Campbelltown**

[campbelltown.nsw.gov.au/MNPC](http://campbelltown.nsw.gov.au/MNPC)  
4645 4000

**Wollondilly Shire Council**

[wollondilly.nsw.gov.au](http://wollondilly.nsw.gov.au)  
4677 1100

**Camden Council**

[camden.nsw.gov.au](http://camden.nsw.gov.au)  
13 22 63

**Narellan Town Centre**

[narellantowncentre.com.au](http://narellantowncentre.com.au)  
4647 4123

**Camera House**

[camerahouse.com.au](http://camerahouse.com.au)  
4620 5588



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